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Hongkong, 1st April, 1889.

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Whenever or wherever the atmosphere is surcharged with moisture these bottles will be found invaluable.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 4th April, 1889.

DEATH.

At Manila, on April 2nd, A. G. POLLER, Ticket Agent for Chiarini's Royal Italian Circus, aged 49 years. Italian papers please copy.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, MONDAY, APRIL 8, 1889.

NOTWITHSTANDING the various schemes which have been proposed for the education of the Chinese in this colony we think there is still a great desideratum left; we mean the establishment of a school where our native rising generation could acquire those branches of European science and arts which are in most request in China, and those social principles of international equality and courtesy against which the Chinese mind is so strongly prejudiced. If Hongkong Schools could every year turn out a few Chinese scientists and experts in the practical industries which now hold such an important place in the world of commerce, if the masses could be made to understand here the folly of Chinese exclusivism and taught the principles of advanced civilisation, we think in the course of time China would inevitably be leavened with a strong and irresistible impulse towards progress and general reform. The missionaries of science, arts and morals, issuing from a well-conducted native educational establishment in this Colony would, in the course of a very few years, revolutionise the whole mental and moral status of the vast Chinese Empire, and convince its bigotted statesmen and retrograde Government that the nation must move with the times if it wishes to survive the vicissitudes of nature and accomplish the high destiny which ought to be its store for life.

The Chinese have been erroneously led to believe that the best way to educate their children is to follow their own narrow grooves of instruction and self-improvement. This is undoubtedly a wrong principle. Had the Chinese ideal standard of intellectual accomplishments been a high one, had they loved to cultivate the useful sciences, a superior literature, the advanced industries of European invention, and the social and international etiquette which binds civilised nations together, we might have reason to say that there was no ground for altering their existing system of education. But we all know, and the liberally educated Chinese also know, how low the standard of native education in China and even in this colony is and ever has been. The highest attainment possible for Chinese students is said to consist in a knowledge of the classics. Now there is nothing to be found in the native classics beyond very rudimentary principles of morality, a very narrow system of politics, imperfect notions about civil administration, and the rudest conception of penal law. The Chinese classics represent the literature,

the ideas and the principles of by-gone ages, when the whole Empire was a grand patriarchal family rather than a practically constituted nation. Would our educational system not be considered devoid of reason if we made our schools resound with the propositions and theses of ALBERTUS MAGNUS, if we taught the "horror of the vacuum" and all the other played-out rubbish of the Middle Ages? Nobody can doubt it. But we take as much of the past as will bear investigation, extract the gems and throw away the heavy and useless incrustations under which they lie. The Chinese love the incrustations; they do not discriminate between the useful and the superfluous, and the result is that their systems of education are, very much like themselves, impregnated with ignorance, prejudice and semi-barbarism.

Hongkong should be like a beacon light of reform and advancement in the thick gloom which still surrounds Chinese backwardness. As the pioneer of trade and commerce in the Far East this Colony should deem it her special mission, for our own interests if for nothing else, to enlighten the native masses of the neighbouring Empire. As it is impossible to establish English schools in China it follows as a matter of course that we must do our best here to rear a native generation of highly educated men imbued with all the advanced principles of European civilisation, who in due course should be capable of taking upon themselves the task of gradually reforming their own vast but still unborn country.

TELEGRAMS.

(Reuter.)

BOULANGER.

LONDON, April 5th.

The Chamber of Deputies has adopted the demand of the Ministry for authority to prosecute General Boulanger for attempting to overthrow the republic. The General is in Brussels.

NEWS OF STANLEY.

A letter has been received from Mr. Stanley in which he recounts the terrible hardships and starvation he has suffered. He met Emin Pasha near the Albert Nyanza and they were together from December to May.

(From Straits Times.)

THE SUNDAY CLOSING BILL.

LONDON, March 28th.

The Sunday Closing Bill has been read a second time in the House of Commons by a majority of 22.

THE SLAVERY QUESTION.

The House of Commons has agreed to a resolution in favor of summoning a Conference of the Powers for the repression of slavery.

THE DUCHY OF LUXEMBURG.

March 29th.

It is reported that Prince Adolph of Nassau has already started for Luxembourg to assume the Regency of the Duchy. [It has not yet been reported that the Duke of Kowloon has started to assume the government of Peking's Hill, but he probably will one of these days—and when he does we shall let Reuter know all about it.—Editor, Hongkong Telegraph.]

(From the Courrier d'Haiphong.)

THE PROSECUTION OF GENERAL BOULANGER.

PARIS, March 31st.

It is reported that the proceedings taken against General Boulanger for conspiring against the State will be delayed, as the Attorney General of the Court of Appeal in Paris has refused to sign the warrant.

M. Quesnay de Beaurepaire has been appointed Attorney General of the Paris Court of Appeal vice M. Bouché, resigned.

LOCAL AND GENERAL.

The Canadian Pacific liner *Parthia* arrived at Vancouver from this port and Japan on the 5th instant.

It is officially notified that Mr. Bernhard Buschmann has been recognised by the Governor as, provisionally and until further, in charge of the Netherlands Consulate at this port.

MR. J. J. FRANCIS, Q.C., who has been on a visit to Manila in connection with the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation's troubles in that city, returned here this morning by the steamship *Diamante*.

ALEXANDER Nasmith, the landscape painter, once planted an inaccessible crag on the estate of the Duke of Athol by shooting tree seeds out of a small cannon. The attempt was a decided success, and the trees now flourish luxuriantly.

DILAPIDATED Lawyer.—How much will you advance on this law-book? Pawnbroker.—I won't advance noddings on a single book. Ven.—You want some advances on a whole library, don't you? Pawnbroker.—I will talk peshness with you, Lawyer.—Well, this is my whole library.

LADY of the house.—Put that statuette of Apollo on the other side of the room, Bridget. Bridget (quaking up the marble).—Faith, mem, and who is the indecent spalpeen? Lady.—Why Bridget, he was a Greek. Bridget.—Phat's that his name is, mem? Lady.—Apollo. Bridget.—Bad cess to 'm, mem. Phat's the murderin' Greek, wid no clothes on his back, doin' wid a good Irish name like O'Pollo?

SENOR D. José del Perójo y Figueras, celebrated Spanish journalist, has been appointed Civil Governor of Manila.

THE returns of the number of visitors to the City Hall Museum for the week ending April 7th, are:—Europeans 208, Chinese 1,652; total, 1,860.

A LEWISTON man has invented a device for stopping runaway horses. It blinds the animal by clapping something over his eyes. The mechanism operates from the driver's seat.

THE Sevres dessert service in Windsor Castle is valued by an expert at fully £100,000, the punch bowl alone being estimated at £10,000. The value of the china at Buckingham Palace and that of Windsor together is thought to exceed considerably £200,000.

THE name of Mr. Alexander Mitchell Cowie, Bachelor of Medicine and Master of Surgery of the University of Aberdeen, has been added to the register of medical and surgical practitioners qualified to practise medicine and surgery in this colony, in accordance with Ordinance No. 6 of 1884.

A PLACARD placed on the window of a shoe-maker's shop near Cripplegate, London, many years ago, is said to have read as follows: "Surgery performed on aged Boots and Shoes broken Legs set and bound upright disordered feet repaired and wounded healed. The whole Constitution mended and the body supported by a new Sole. By T.T."

"ONE moment, Mr. Sampson," she exclaimed, with a distressed look as he dropped to his knees. "I have already had twelve proposals this season, and yours will be the thirteenth—an unlucky number." "True," he answered, as he rose to his feet, his face ashen; "but oh, what am I to do?" "Wait for a week Mr. Sampson," she answered shyly, "then come again."

THIS is a Scotch edition of a very hoary chestnut.—A sexton at Kirksilloch, being intoxicated, fell asleep on a grave. When awakened by the bugle of a passing coach, he took it for the last trump, arose, and looking around, said: "Ech, a pair show for Kirksilloch!" His local patriotism had expected a more populous assembly on this occasion.

A VERY tragic occurrence is reported by the *Diario* to have taken place at Manila there on Sunday, the 31st ult. At 4.30 a.m. the body of a native girl, eighteen years of age, was found lying on the tramway lines, well dressed, and having several ghastly wounds. From information gathered it appeared that a few minutes before the time mentioned, the girl, Maria Luisa Javier, accompanied by her mother, Maria Isidro, an uncle and a cousin, were proceeding to the church of Binondo, when on passing near a shop the girl was accosted by an individual armed with a poniard, who inflicted several wounds on the helpless victim before she had time to do anything in self-defence, two on the breast, two on the shoulder, and others in the abdomen. The uncle and cousin, who tried to save the girl, were also slightly wounded, after which the assassin jumped into the river and attempted to escape. A policeman who happened to hear the cries of the disconsolate mother subsequently arrested the man. As he was found to be *compas mentis*, the crime is attributed to some love affair. A noteworthy circumstance is that the crime was perpetrated near the church gate, and on a Sunday.

MR. WODEHOUSE devoted an hour this morning to a very plain little case which ought to have been disposed of in five minutes. The delay was owing to the fact that Mr. Wotton was lending his valuable aid in the case. A Chinese money-changer in Queen's Road charged Gun Lascar Sund Singh, No. 607, with stealing 25 ten cent pieces, last night. His evidence was very clear—he was at his stall, near the market, when the prisoner and another Lascar came up, and the former picked up a pile of ten-cent pieces and handed them to his companion, who went away. Witness gave the prisoner into custody, and subsequently some other Sikhs came and wanted to "square" the matter. Mr. Wotton, who defended, spent about three quarters of an hour in putting about as childish a series of questions as the most unlicked lawyer's cub, who was dying of softening of the brain, and knew nothing about Court procedure ever thought of putting. Was the prosecutor's real name Awing or Awong? Had he any partners? Did he know to a cent how much he was worth? and so forth and so on. After the very edifying exhibition was over the case was remanded until to-morrow.

THE *Courrier d'Haiphong* publishes the following telegraphic news from the Interior of Tonquin.—On the 27th ult., Duo-quan of Luong-phong Viet, whose submission was considered probable, repaired to the Residency at Bac-ninh, accompanied by eight of his officers, and handed over to the Resident five breech-loading rifles and several stands of small arms. In the whole northern region of Bac-ninh there now remain only three rebel chiefs, Doc-tham, De-nam, and Bap-sue, who have already promised to surrender. The work of pacification in that part of the country may therefore be considered as completed. The Phots, one of the most redoubtable bandits of Phu-da-phut, has also surrendered with a few of his men.—Pelé, a deserter from a French company of Engineers, and a member of a piratical band who infested the neighbourhood of Kep, has been captured by the military authorities at Phu-lang-thoong.—On the 28th March a hot engagement took place between the Quan-bo column and the Quan-Gay and Doc-Sung bands. The village of Dang-thao and a house which the pirates used as a fort were stormed and taken. Several pirates were killed. On the French side a militiaman and a partisan of the Dol Van were killed, and the Pho-quan Lang seriously wounded.

We regret to hear from Manila that G. G. Polleri, the courteous ticket agent for Chiarini's Royal Italian Circus, died there on the 2nd inst.

JAMES WILSON, an athletic young Cornstalk, is a decided acquisition to the Colony. He is a sailor, and lived at Mr. Moir's establishment for some time, but as he found some insuperable objection to all the ships found for him, and was prevented from going to work at the Brick works by reason of being "on the bust," he was thrown out, and took to loafing. He was arrested yesterday, and Mr. Wodehouse nominated him to a cadetship in the oakum-picking office.

TWO masters-at-arms from the Spanish cruiser *Argonia* were charged before Mr. Wodehouse today with being drunk and disorderly and breaking the furniture in a Japanese coffeehouse in Peel Street last night. They were fined \$3 each. A private in the 91st Regiment—Henry Constable, was fined \$5 by Mr. Wodehouse for similar misconduct. In the next Court, Mr. Pollock imposed the same fine on a rough sailor who savagely assaulted P.C. Graham yesterday morning by kicking him on the knee and biting his thumb, and who needed four policemen to arrest him.

OUR Haiphong contemporary, under date the 21st ult., expresses anxiety as to the fate of the steamer *Fanny*, of the "Société Française des Charbonnages du Tonkin." The vessel stranded on a flat rock opposite Ha-tou. M. Bavier-Chauffour, on hearing of the occurrence, left with the launches *Charlot* and the *Dadane*; but on arriving at the scene, found that the *Fanny* had disappeared. It is supposed that she has proceeded on her voyage towards Cam-pa. Mr. Bavier, the Company's engineer, and Mr. Watts were on board. Recent news from Haiphong make no reference to the *Fanny*, so there can be very little doubt that she reached her destination safely.

IT was the night before the wedding, and he was bidding her good-night, and softly whispered:—"To-morrow eve, my darling, we begin our journey as bride and bridegroom, pilgrims of life together; hand in hand we will journey adown life's rugged road. We shall want to set out with a glorious equipment of faith and hope and courage, that neither of us may faint and fall by the wayside before the journey is ended; will you not, darling?"—"Oh, yes, to be sure; only I really am so worried about the train of my dress. It didn't hang a bit nice to-day when I tried the dress on, and I'd die with mortification if it hung so at the wedding to-morrow. Go on with what you were saying, dear!"

A RATHER amusing yarn relating to the Steam Launch Co. "corner" is going the rounds. It appears that a certain gentleman well known in the colony was induced, on the strength of representations made to him, to sell "short," for delivery on March 31st, three hundred shares. Of course he was most completely "cornered," the ring having managed to obtain possession of or control over nearly the whole of the scrip issued, and he was not in a position to either buy the shares or pay differences at the extortionate rates demanded by the wire-pullers. His position rendered repudiation of his contracts a risky matter and ruin stared him in the face. And then the unexpected happened. There is an old saying that when rogues fall out there is a chance of honest men holding their own, and so it proved in this instance. The "combination" could not agree, or mistrusted each other, or something else, but at all events one member quietly sauntered round to the "cornered" individual and handed him three hundred shares to meet his contracts. When applied for, the shares were duly handed over, greatly to the astonishment of the conspirators, who at once commenced to make inquiries and actually had the impudence to question the short-seller as to where he got the shares. Eventually there was a big row, and a collapse. The enterprising gentlemen who purchased nearly the whole of the shares issued at rates varying between 100 and 400 per cent. premium are now very likely to have the pleasure of running the Steam Launch Company, Limited, on their own account and for their own benefit. We wish them joy of their bargain.

UNDER the First Empire only two female nominations were made to the Legion of Honor, and these were both for military achievements. The one was given to Virginie Chesquiere, who had dressed herself as a man and taken the place of her brother, who was not strong enough to stand a soldier's life. Enrolled in the Twenty-seventh Regiment of the line she displayed great bravery, and obtained the rank of sergeant, her sex not being discovered until she was wounded in the breast while rescuing her Colonel from the enemy. The second was given to Marie Schellings, a Belgian woman, who enlisted out of liking for a military career, who fought at sabre cuts at Austerlitz and at Jena, where she was wounded twice. In 1806 she was appointed to the rank of Sub-Lieutenant, and Napoleon decorated her with his own hand in 1808, granting her at the same time a pension of 700 francs. The third woman decorated was a Sister of Charity, Sœur Marie, in 1858, while the only decoration given to a woman between 1816 and 1851 was that accorded to a *canitine* named Perrot. From 1851 to 1856 eight ribbons were given to women, among them being that which the Emperor Napoleon fixed to the breast of Rosa Bonheur, and since the Franco-Prussian war the Legion of Honor has been less sparingly distributed, one of the recipients being Lady Pigot, in recognition of the ambulance work she did in 1870-71. Altogether seven women have been decorated for their services on the battle-field, but no fewer than twenty of the thirty-four (the total number decorated) have been Sisters of Charity, while the only artist has been Rosa Bonheur. One of the last recipients of the red ribbon has been Mme. Dufour, the intrepid wife of the explorer in North Africa.

FROM the 26th January to the 23rd ult., there were, according to the Manila *Comercio*, 2,136 cases of cholera in Zamboanga, of which 1,106 proved fatal.

AN Indian overseer named Chinpa was sentenced to five weeks' hard labor this morning for stealing a bundle of clothing belonging to a sailor, from the Seamen's Club.

AN Emergency meeting of Zetland Lodge, No. 525, will be held in Freemasons' Hall, Zetland Street, on Thursday, the 11th instant, at 8.30 for 9 p.m. precisely. Visiting brethren are cordially invited.

THE greatest immigration society at present is the Argentine Republic. It will spend this year \$5,000,000 to bring immigrants from the north of Europe alone. Ships from England, Holland, and France are taking them over in thousands.

We read that New York State's serious problem is in its prisons. Sing Sing holds 1,538 men confined, yet but 654 of these can be employed. The great majority suffer an enforced idleness that becomes maddening. Are you listening, Major-General Gordon?

ALTHOUGH it has not been publicly announced, we believe we are correct in stating that Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C., resigned his position on the Board of the Steam Launch Company, Limited, some time ago. We suppose the "corner" swindle was too much for even the strong nerves of the redoubtable leader of the Hongkong bar!

In writing editorially the other day on the notorious "corner" in the Rope Manufacturing Co.'s shares, we said that, according to popular report, the plunder realised totalled (on paper) between fifty and sixty thousand dollars. So far this profit exists only on paper, and we now hear that it will take no more substantial form until the whole of the proceedings in connection with the "corner" have been submitted to Chief Justice Russell and a jury in the Supreme Court. According to current gossip some interesting disclosures, in which two or three members of the staff of the General Managers, two employees of other public companies in the colony, and several brethren of the ancient order of shrewd brokers play leading rôles, may be confidently looked for.

THE *Pittsburg Dispatch* gives its readers the following medical advice gratis:—"To avoid indulging in the wretched habit of snoring, keep awake. To bring on a free perspiration, wear an overcoat during the month of July. A black-snake whip, properly applied, never fails to act as a strong stimulant. Sufferers from cold feet have been known to obtain relief by putting their feet near the stove. To bring a healthy color to the face, draw on a boot a couple of sizes too small for your foot. Ladies desiring the removal of superfluous hairs from their face should go to a barber and get shaved. Persons afflicted with aching teeth should visit a dentist and obtain a new set. Billousness, especially when caused by high living, may be remedied by living at a cheap boarding-house. Scarlet-fever patients should go to the Gulf Coast for a change if they desire to change their fever to the yellow brand. To cool the blood, shut yourself up in a refrigerator for an hour. This has not only been known to cool the blood, but the flesh and bones as well."

CRUICKSHANK AND CO.

The first general meeting of the shareholders in the Victoria Dispensary was held this afternoon in the Hongkong Hotel. Mr. Cruickshank, (Chairman) Mr. McCulloch, Mr. Fenwick Mr. J. Stephens, and Mr. Fraser were present.

The Chairman said:—"This is the first general meeting of the Company, held for the purpose of receiving the report and statement of accounts for the year ending the 28th February, which we will take as read. Before passing them, if anyone has any questions to ask I shall be happy to answer them."

Mr. McCulloch asked what the Company's prospects were? The Chairman said they were good. Since the formation of the Company last July the turnover up to February was \$3,400 over that of the previous year.—In reply to Mr. Fenwick he mentioned that they had also started a dispensary in Queen's-road, West for the sale of medicines specially put up for the Chinese, the prospects of which were encouraging. He then moved the adoption of the report.

Mr. Fenwick seconded, and it was adopted accordingly.

Mr. McCulloch moved the re-election of Mr. Henderson as auditor.

Mr. J. Stephens seconded, and the motion being carried, the important proceedings terminated.

THE FORGERY OF A CHEQUE.

At the Police Court this morning, before Mr. Wodehouse, Eulogio Kosca was charged on remand with forging a cheque for \$1,000 on the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank. Mr. Webber defended.

MR. STRINGER, recalled:—"I am still unable to explain how the three cheques were taken from my office. I may have left my cheque-book open, but I do not remember having done so. I have not heard of the other two cheques being presented."

By Mr. Webber:—"The cheque was worth two cents. Detective Sergeant Macdonald:—"On the 28th ult., about two p.m. Mr. Evans, of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, reported that a forged cheque had been presented, and I accompanied him to Mr. Stringer's house. Mr. Stringer pulled his cheque book out of a pigeon-hole, and showed us three blank counterfoils, one of which corresponded with the forged cheque. In consequence of subsequent information I went to 30 Queen's Road East, on the top floor of which the prisoner lived. He was within, and I charged him with presenting a forged cheque for \$1,000 at the Bank. He replied that he had not been out that day. I told him he was at the Bank at half past one, upon which his wife said he could not have been there at that time, as he had just come in to kiss her. I then arrested him, and took him to the Bank, where a European clerk, two shroffs, and a Chinese detective who is always on duty in the Bank, all identified him as

having been there previously that day, which he continued to deny. I then took him to the Police Station. I searched his quarters afterwards, but found no traces of the other two cheques. I do not know the handwriting on the cheques nor do I know the prisoner's handwriting. I produced several signatures written by him, which he admitted to me in the Gaol on the 4th inst.—Some discussion then arose between Mr. Webber, and the Magistrate as to the legality of this proceeding, and the admissibility of the evidence.—Witness continued:—"I asked the clerk in the Gaol to get him to write several signatures. Inspector Stanton suggested it to me."

Inspector Stanton, at his own request, was sworn, and denied ordering Macdonald to get Kosca's signature. He told him to get specimens of his writing.

His Worship committed the case for trial, Bail was applied for, but opposed by the Police, and refused.

THE EMBEZZLEMENT CASE.

At the Police Court this afternoon Mr. Pollack again had before him the case of Harold Dowson, charged with embezzling various sums whilst agent to the China and Japan Telephone Company.—Mr. Hastings prosecuted, and Mr. Webber defended.

MR. WEBBER:—"After considering this case I looked up my point, and I see it was decided in the case of *Regina v. Sill* that where a prisoner has pleaded guilty to a felony, and been sentenced, he cannot afterwards alter the plea to that of not guilty. That being the case no useful object would be served by arguing as to the illegality or otherwise of the proceedings that have taken place in this Court, because I take it that whatever decision you arrive at you will send the case for trial. Therefore I think it would be wise to reserve any defence the prisoner may have, either legally or with regard to facts, for the Supreme Court."

MR. HASTINGS:—"Then I propose to go on with my evidence."

MR. WEBBER:—"Then I take no further part in the case here—I object to the proceedings altogether."

HIS WORSHIP:—"You may have a right to cross-examine."

MR. WEBBER:—"I have nothing to do with the subsequent proceedings. Arthur Sandford:—"I am the agent in charge of the China and Japan Telephone Co. in Hongkong. I was appointed in 1888, and arrived here last November. The defendant was formerly agent—he commenced about May, 1887, and was superseded by Mr. Judd on the 8th Sept. last. Mr. Haylar acted temporarily, until my arrival. When I took charge I went carefully through the accounts. I found a deficiency of \$1,157.89 between the 31st September, 1887, and May, 1888. According to the accounts there should have been a balance of \$618 in the Bank, instead of which the account had been overdrawn \$537. I investigated the cause of the deficiency, and found that Dowson had been in the habit of paying his private debts through the Company's banking account. The pass-book showed that on the 3rd November 1887 he drew a cheque for \$75, payable to the Hongkong Hotel. On the 10th December he gave a cheque for \$35 to See Wo, and another for \$40 the following March. The prisoner asked no questions."

A clerk from the Company having proved the signatures to the cheques,

MR. HASTINGS said that that was his case. His Worship left the Chinese interpreter to read the "caution" over, this time, and then committed the prisoner for trial.

MISS AMY SHERWIN IN "FAUST."

The largest audience of the present season crowded the Theatre Royal, City Hall, on Saturday night, the attraction being a representation of Gounod's grand opera "Faust" by the members of Miss Amy Sherwin's Company, assisted by local amateurs and the Band of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. Although the entertainment was advertised to commence at 9 o'clock, a start was not made until twenty-three minutes past that hour, this long delay being caused by an excess of courtesy on the part of the management towards his Excellency the Governor and some other distinguished visitors who were expected to be present. Naturally enough the audience manifested considerable signs of impatience, and were amply justified in so doing, as there was no excuse whatever for putting some five hundred people to serious inconvenience because three or four persons of distinction did not see fit or were unable to attend at the proper time. In consequence of this late commencement the performance was not concluded until long after midnight, numbers of the audience leaving the theatre before and during the progress of the last act.

It is hardly necessary to say that an adequate representation of an opera like *Faust* is far beyond the powers and resources of any travelling company, and as Miss Sherwin's troupe numbers only four acting members all told, it was a plucky undertaking to attempt Gounod's masterpiece, even with the assistance of Messrs. C. H. Grace, W. E. Crow, a chorus of amateurs, and the Band of the Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders. "Faust" is a very heavy opera, and even when effectively staged, with a full chorus, and represented by artists of the highest class, some of the scenes are apt to drag. It was therefore all the more creditable to Miss Sherwin and her colleagues that Saturday's performance passed off so satisfactorily, but it was the real test to diguise the fact that this result was mainly if not almost entirely owing to the brilliant vocalisation of the *prima donna* in her charming impersonation of *Marguerite*. This is the first character Miss Sherwin has appeared in here in which we have seen her to the best advantage; she looked the ideal *Marguerite*, full of sympathy and winning grace, her acting was simple and natural throughout and not lacking in power in the more impressive scenes, while the music has never been more tastefully or artistically rendered. In this company, Miss Sherwin sang the celebrated "Ave Maria" superbly, her flexible and carefully trained voice making light of the difficult scale and ascending scale, and she fairly won the enthusiastic applause which greeted her truly artistic success. The *romanza* "He loves me! wildly beats my heart" was also rendered with exquisite feeling, and in the duo with *Faust*, Miss Sherwin fully excelled herself, eliciting thunders of applause. The *Soubrette* of Miss Minna Fischer was not without considerable merit, and the song "Gently whisper to her of love, dear flower," in excellent style. The same lady appeared as *Martha*, giving a very humorous sketch of that ancient and amorous dame. In the concerted music Miss Fischer was of course invaluable. Mr. Stockwell was decidedly overweighed by *Faust*, and neither did justice to himself, nor to the part. This gentleman is singularly ungracious on the stage, whether from inexperience, nervousness or self-consciousness; we are unable to say, but his conception of what a passionist, lover might reasonably be presumed to be is certainly incomprehensible, the more especially as Mr. Stockwell knows well how to sing with plenty of

150 Hongkong, 3rd April, 1889. [41]

